

CLAIMS :

1. A clip for holding banknotes having: two clasp portions moveable relative to one another for holding banknotes therebetween; a moveable portion, moveable relative to one of the two clasp portions; and magnetic material operably associated with the moveable portion, the moveable portion being moveable between a first closed position whereby the operation of the magnetic material is such as to hold the first and second clasp portions together and an open position whereby the first and second clasp portions are released apart.
2. The clip as claimed in claim 1 wherein the moveable portion is mounted on the first clasp portion.
3. The clip as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the second clasp portion comprises magnetic material.
4. A clip for holding banknotes having a first clasp portion and a second clasp portion for holding banknotes therebetween, the first clasp portion having a first magnetic portion including magnetic material and the second clasp portion having a second magnetic portion including magnetic material, wherein the first magnetic portion is moveable relative to the second magnetic portion between: a closed position whereby the interaction of the magnetic material of the first and second magnetic portions is such that there is a net force of attraction to hold the first and second clasp portions together; and an open position whereby the first and second clasp portions are released apart.
5. The clip as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first and second clasp portions are hingeably connected so as to be pivotable relative to one another between open and closed configurations.
6. The clip as claimed in claim 5 wherein a flexible hinge is provided.
7. The clip as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first magnetic portion is arranged to slide relative to the first clasp portion.

8. The clip as claimed in claim 7 wherein the first magnetic portion is in the form of a slide disposed on the inner side of the first clasp portion, the slide being operable from the exterior of the clip.

5 9. The clip as claimed in claim 8 wherein the first clasp portion is provided with a slot, there being further provided a moveable actuator disposed on the outer side of the first clasp portion to operate the first magnetic portion within the clip.

10 10. The clip as claimed in claim 4 wherein the first magnetic portion has at least one band of magnetic material extending across the width of the first magnetic portion with the polarity reversing through the thickness of the band and the second magnetic portion has at least one band of magnetic material extending across the width of the second magnetic portion with the polarity reversing through the thickness of the band, the bands being arranged such that with the first magnetic portion in the closed position, the
15 band of the first magnetic portion is attracted to the band of the second magnetic portion thereby holding the first and second clasp portions together.

20 11. The clip as claimed in claim 10 wherein the arrangement of magnetic material is such that in the open position of the first magnetic portion, there is a net force of repulsion tending to repel the first and second clasp portions apart.

25 12. The clip as claimed in claim 10 or claim 11 wherein the second magnetic portion has a plurality of bands of magnetic material extending across the width of the second magnetic portion with the polarity reversing through the thickness of the bands, the bands on the second portion being arranged such that with the first magnetic portion in the closed position, the band of the first magnetic portion is attracted to one of the bands of the second magnetic portion thereby holding the first and second portions together and such that in the open position, the band of the first magnetic
30 portion is disposed adjacent to another band of the second magnetic portion

whereby the polarity is such that these two bands repel each other to repel the two clasp portions apart.

5 13. The clip as claimed in claim 12 wherein the first magnetic portion has a series of bands of alternating polarity through the thickness of the bands and the second magnetic portion has a series of bands with alternating polarity through the thickness of the bands such that in the closed position of the first magnetic portion, the adjacent bands attract and in the open position, the adjacent bands repel each other.

10 14. The clip as claimed in claim 13 wherein, the bands associated with each magnetic portion are spaced from each other.

15 15. The clip as claimed in claim 1 wherein the magnetic material comprises rare earth magnets.

16. The clip as claimed in claim 4 wherein the magnetic material comprises rare earth magnets.